



# County of San Diego

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Emergency Medical Services  
HIV/AIDS Services  
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Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB & STD Control  
Vital Records

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## Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians Committee –February, 2004

### San Diego County EMS:

**Protocol Revisions** are continuing with the recommendations brought forth at last month's BSPPC.

**EMS Plan:** The County's EMS plan and system evaluation is to be initiated by EMCC.

**Booster seat Check event:** February 8-14 is national child passenger safety week. In recognition of the need for age appropriate restraints for children ages 4-6, two years ago California extended the child restraint law to require booster seats for children up to age 6 or 60lbs. Since the child restraint law was extended, the San Diego County Trauma System has continued to see children who were severely injured because they were inappropriately restrained or completely unrestrained. Additionally, 39% of booster seats inspected by SafeKids Coalition were incorrectly installed or used which could lead to severe injuries to children thought to be protected.

On Saturday, February 14 from 10:00am to 12:00pm, the San Diego County Trauma System and the Trauma Research and Education Foundation in conjunction with the San Diego SafeKids Coalition will hold booster checks at five locations throughout the County. Booster seat checks will be held at:

UCSD - Toys R Us on Morena Blvd

Sharp Memorial - Toys R Us in La Mesa

Scripps LaJolla - Westfield Shopping Town University Town Centre

Scripps Mercy and Childrens - Wellness Center in City Heights

Palomar - City Administration Building in Escondido

Parents must bring their vehicle with their booster seat installed and the child who uses the booster seat. Checks are on a first come, first served basis.

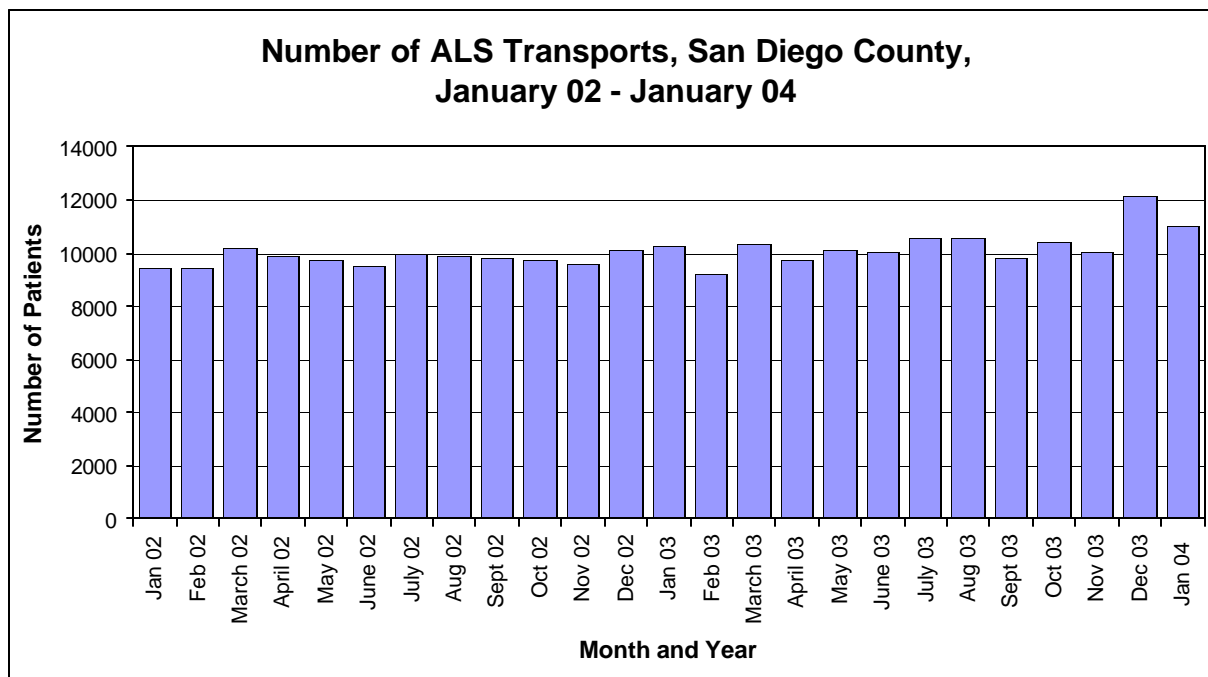
**Helmet Enforcement:** On Thursday, February 5, 2004, San Diego Police Officers staged a helmet enforcement action in the area around Challenger Middle School in San Diego. This location was chosen because an Emergency Medical Services study of children leaving Challenger Middle School revealed that, while all the children had helmets, 61% were not wearing their helmets correctly. Most of these children had their helmet straps unlatched.

Youth will be given *warning notices* to show to their parents, however the next time, tickets will be issued to those under 18 years of age who are found riding without properly fitted and fastened safety helmets, and the parents will be fined \$25.00. A portion of the fines will help fund child injury prevention and helmet education programs.

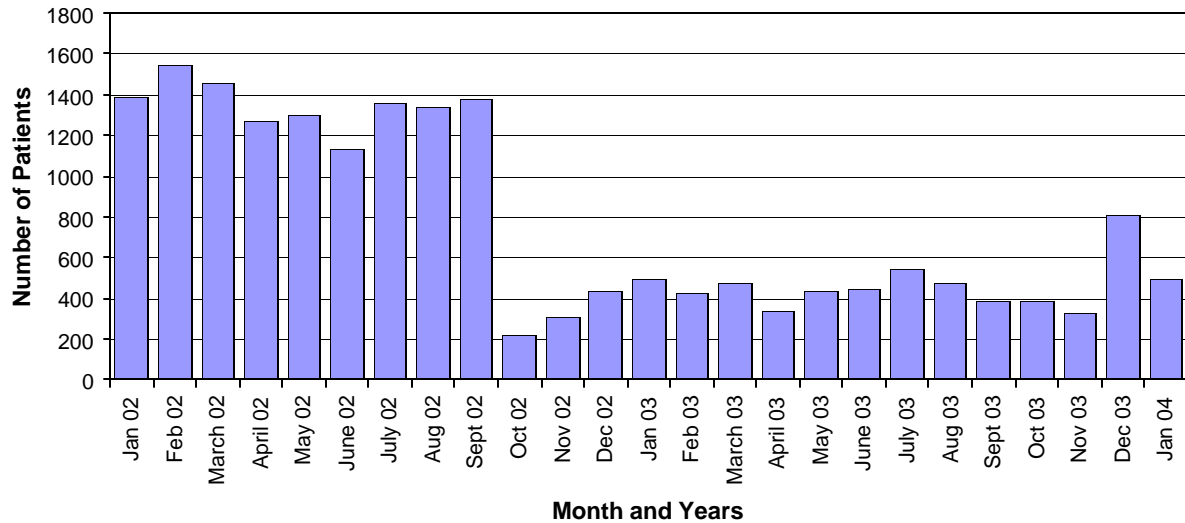
The San Diego Police Department will be staging future enforcement actions at other schools throughout the city where children are at risk. The San Diego Police Department has partnered with the Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention and Health Promotion Unit of the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, as well as the San Diego Safe Kids Coalition, to promote the proper use of helmets when riding bikes, scooters, skateboards, skates, and inline skates.

Free safety helmets are available for those individuals who are issued warning notices, but who are unable to purchase the required safety helmet. These helmets are being provided by San Diego County Fourth District Supervisor Ron Roberts and the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency.

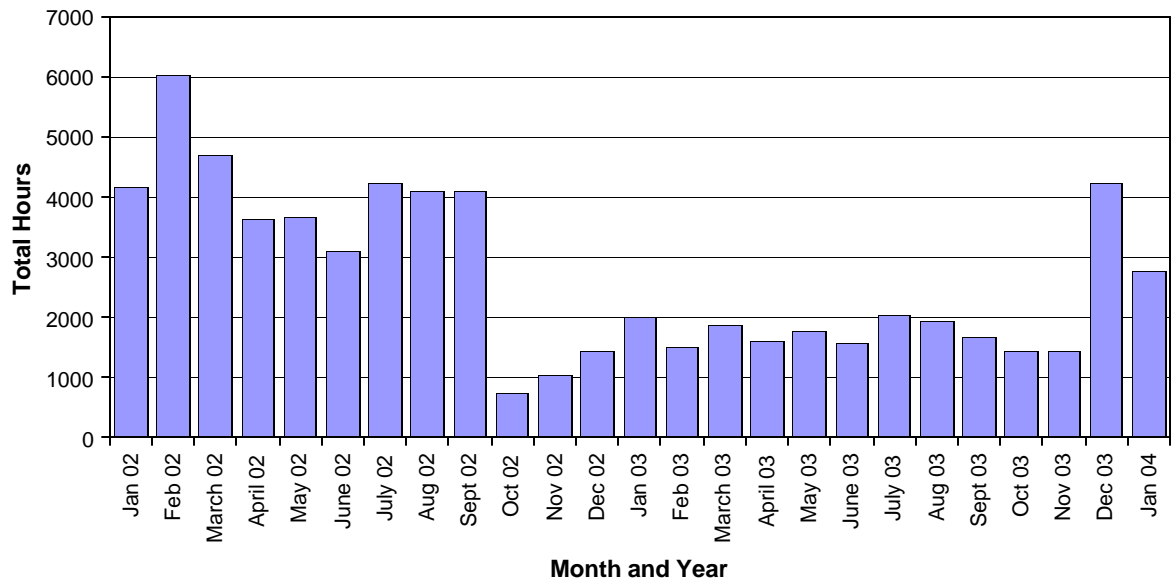
**Below is the patient destination data in graphic form**



**Number of Patients who Bypassed the Requested Hospital,  
San Diego County, January 02 - January 04**



**Total Hours on Emergency Department Bypass,  
San Diego County, January 02 - January 04**



**EMDAC and the EMS Commission do not meet again until March 2004**

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